



**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF TEXAS**

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

**JOHN L. HILL
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

April 8, 1977

The Honorable James L. Edwards
Comanche County Attorney
Box 147
Comanche, Texas 76442

Opinion No. H-976

Re: Whether a county is
required to provide
ambulance service.

Dear Mr. Edwards:

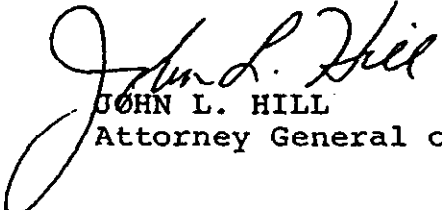
You have requested our opinion concerning whether a county is required to provide ambulance service.

It is well established in the opinions of this office that a county may provide ambulance service pursuant to the commissioner court's power regarding public health. Attorney General Opinions M-806 (1971), M-385 (1969), C-722 (1966); see V.T.C.S. arts. 2372t, 4418f. In Attorney General Opinion M-385, it was decided that a hospital district was authorized but not required to provide ambulance service. We have discovered no authority which would require a county to provide ambulance service. Article 4418f gives commissioners courts "the authority" to expend money for public health purposes which might include ambulance service but does not require them to provide such service. In the absence of a statute or constitutional provision imposing such a duty, in our opinion a county is not required to provide ambulance service.

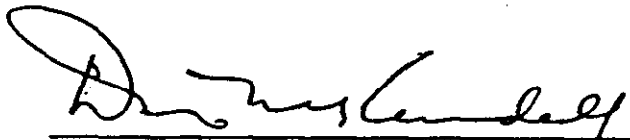
S U M M A R Y

A county may, but is not required to,
provide ambulance service.

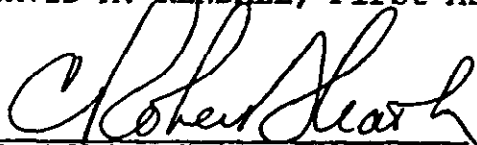
Very truly yours,


JOHN L. HILL
Attorney General of Texas

APPROVED:



DAVID M. KENDALL, First Assistant



C. ROBERT HEATH, Chairman
Opinion Committee

kml